

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A product server for holding and displaying products, the product server having a front customer side and a rear employee side, and a breath guard, said breath guard comprising

5 a panel attached to the product server and moveable between a lowered position preventing access to products held by the product server and a raised position allowing access to the products,

the panel being sufficiently transparent to allow viewing of the products held in the product server.

2. A product server as set forth in claim 3 further comprising a first power assist device attached to said product server and said panel.

3. A product server as set forth in claim 2 wherein said first power assist device assists in moving the panel to its raised position.

4. A product server as set forth in claim 2 further comprising a support frame mounted on the product server.

5. A product server as set forth in claim 4 further comprising a second power assist device connected to said frame and said panel.

6. A product server as set forth in claim 5 wherein said first power assist device assists in moving the panel to its raised position and said second power assist device resists movement of the panel from its raised position to its lowered position thereby providing controlled downward movement of the panel.

7. A product server as set forth in claim 6 wherein said at least one of said first and second power assist devices comprises a gas spring.

8. A product server as set forth in claim 6 wherein said at least one of said first and second power assist devices comprises a damper.

9. A product server as set forth in claim 5 wherein said support frame comprises a pair of upright frame members extending up from the product server generally near opposite sides of the panel and generally adjacent the customer side of the product server.

10. A product server as set forth in claim 9 wherein said second power assist device is connected to one of the upright frame members of the support frame.

11. A product server as set forth in claim 10 wherein said first power assist device pivots around a fixed end attached to the product server, and wherein said second power assist device pivots around a fixed end attached to the upright frame member.

12. A product server as set forth in claim 11 wherein said fixed end of said second power assist device is generally near the front of the product server and said fixed end of the first power assist device is located between the fixed end of the second power assist device and the rear of the product server.

13. A product server as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a seal on the panel for sealing against an upwardly facing surface on the product server to substantially enclose the products held by the server when the panel is in the lowered position.

14. A product server as set forth in claim 1 wherein said panel is pivotably attached to said support frame near the customer side of the server.

15. A product server as set forth in claim 14 wherein said panel is pivotable through approximately 60 degrees of angular motion from its lowered position to its raised position.

16. A product server as set forth in claim 1 wherein said raised position of the panel allows access to the products from the employee side of the server.

17. A product server for holding and displaying products, the product server having a front customer side, a rear employee side, and a breath guard, said breath guard comprising:

5 a panel attached to the product server for pivotal movement between a lowered position preventing access to products held by the product server and a raised position allowing access to the products; and

at least one power assist device connected to said product server and said panel for assisting the pivotal movement of the panel between its lowered position and its raised position.

18. A product server as set forth in claim 17 wherein said at least one power assist device applies a lifting force to said panel.

19. A product server as set forth in claim 18 wherein said panel is pivotable from its lowered position to an intermediate position by the application of a manual lifting force and is pivotable from its intermediate position to its raised by position by the lifting force of the power assist device without the application of a manual lifting force.

20. A product server as set forth in claim 17 wherein said panel is pivotably attached to said support frame near the customer side of the server.

21. A product server as set forth in claim 20 wherein said panel is pivotable through approximately 60 degrees of angular motion from its lowered position to its raised position.

22. A product server as set forth in claim 17 wherein said at least one power assist device comprises a gas spring.

23. A product server as set forth in claim 17 wherein said panel is sufficiently transparent to allow viewing of the products held in the product server.

24. A product server as set forth in claim 17 wherein said raised position of the panel allows access to the products from the employee side of the server.

25. A product server for holding and displaying products, the product server having a front customer side and a rear employee side, and a breath guard, said breath guard comprising

5 a panel attached to the product server for pivotal movement between a lowered position preventing access to products held by the product server and a raised position allowing access to the products,

a first power assist device connected to said frame and said panel for applying an upward force on the panel to assist pivotal movement of the panel between its lowered position and its raised position, and

10 a second power assist device connected to said frame and said panel for resisting the movement of the panel from its raised position to its lowered positions thereby providing controlled downward movement of the panel.

26. A product server as set forth in claim 25 wherein said first power assist devices comprises a gas spring.

27. A product server as set forth in claim 25 wherein said second power assist devices comprises a damper.

28. A product server as set forth in claim 25 wherein said panel is pivotable from its lowered position to an intermediate position by the application of a manual lifting force and is pivotable from its intermediate position to its raised by position by the upward force of the first power assist device without the application of a manual lifting force.

29. A product server as set forth in claim 25 wherein said panel is sufficiently transparent to allow viewing of the products held in the product server.

30. A product server as set forth in claim 25 further comprising a seal on the panel for sealing against an upwardly facing surface on the product server to substantially enclose the products held by the server when the panel is in the lowered position.

31. A product server as set forth in claim 25 wherein said raised position of the panel allows access to the products from the employee side of the server.